CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JANUARY 2018:

On 23rd January 2018 President Richard West opened the meeting and welcomed the 10 members present before introducing **Tony Bosworth** and his display on the **1936 Olympic Games.** Tony dedicated his talk to the late Franceska Rapkin who had been his inspiration and mentor when he started on this subject, indeed he showed several rare items which had come from her collection.

The presentation started with a background history of the modern Olympics and how Germany was eventually awarded the Summer and Winter Olympics in 1936. Material was shown from the Winter Games held in Bavaria including propaganda cards, postcards, stamps, postmarks, meter marks and ephemera. A special Winter Olympics Telegram was one of the highlights of this section of the display. Tony mentioned Sonja Henie, a skating champion who won Olympic Gold Medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936. She eventually became a Hollywood film star which brought back happy memories for some of the older members.

For the first time in Olympic History an Olympic Village was built for the Summer Games which were held in fourteen different locations. There were 150 chalets with postal stationery cards, notepaper, envelopes and special postmarks being produced. A 7.6 tonne Olympic Bell was also used for the first time and taken round Germany before arriving at its final resting place. Tony decried the fact that he had never been able to obtain a 1936 Olympic Torch.

Zeppelin LZ129 flew over the Olympic Stadium on the opening day of the Summer Games carrying mail. This mail bore special cachets and the rare vermilion variety was shown. Many postcards of the athletes were on the frames with Jesse Owens, winner of 3 gold medals having signed one of the items on display.

Unusual events were the Munich Chess Olympiad and the Dresden Postage Stamp Exhibition and Flower Show. Rare material from all these aspects of the Olympics were admired by the members present.

Members had the opportunity to view the material before Frank Simpson gave the vote of thanks remarking that it was a refreshing change from the normal philatelic material and the presentation had been very enjoyable. Tony's lively and knowledgeable discourse kept members deeply interested throughout – a splendid afternoon's entertainment. The meeting closed at 16.30 hours.

24.01.2018
Ref: CroyPhilSocNotes23.01.18.docx
Graham Harker
Honorary Assistant Secretary
With much help from Brian Asquith & John Ray.